

INTRODUCING



Pressures on hospitals to provide the highest quality care at the lowest possible cost have never been higher. At the same time, regulatory burdens and unprecedented public scrutiny of health care delivery is intensifying. Given these circumstances, how could any hospital meet such challenges while also worrying about the environment? Today, many health care organizations are actually finding that pollution prevention programs are not only enhancing patient care and safety, but also their ability to meet regulatory and community health obligations while improving their bottom line. In fact, scores of hospitals are discovering powerful synergies between their own business models and efforts to create safer workplaces by wiser product choices and implementing processes that make a positive environmental impact.



Consider these recent examples:

- One facility invested in reusable OR instrument sterilization containers and saved over \$100,000 per year.
- Another hospital system eliminated 153,277 pounds of plastics from its hospital waste streams through a reusable sharps program, saving more than \$200,000.
- New energy efficient laundry equipment and lighting cut power requirements by over 25%, saving one hospital over \$200,000 a year.

What do these organizations have in common? They are dedicated to taking measurable action to create high performance healing environments. They also are partners of Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E), a community of organizations that collaborate to share knowledge and best practices. What began in 1998 out of a landmark public and private consensus to reduce and prevent pollution

today has blossomed into a growing national movement for environmental sustainability in health care. H2E is an independent not-for-profit organization jointly founded by the American Hospital Association, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Health Care Without Harm and the American Nurses Association.

H2E's mission is simple: To collaborate and provide education, tools and information about best environmental practices to help health care organizations supercharge their operational efficiency, increase regulatory compliance, and improve the health of their communities. H2E envisions a health care system that easily distinguishes the link between our choices and our health, one in which environmentally aware and engaged organizations are dedicated to the health of patients, workers, their communities, and the global environment. H2E has found that such organizations are successful when patients and staff interact in a healing environment that embraces safer building products, clean air, reduced toxins, safe working practices, energy and water efficiency and education.

Our core collaborators: H2E Partners

Through its Partners Program, H2E works individually and collectively with health care facilities and other allied organizations that are committed to improving environmental performance. Partners pledge to work to eliminate mercury, reduce the use of other toxic chemicals, reduce waste, conserve resources, and implement environmental programs that are measurable and make a difference. There

is no cost to become a Partner and registration can be completed online.

Recognizing excellence: The H2E Annual Awards Program

H2E celebrates the achievements of its Partners through an annual awards program designed to recognize excellence in efforts such as mercury elimination, pollution prevention and overall environmental leadership. By highlighting their environmental achievements both internally and in the community, recipients demonstrate their organization's leadership and commitment to community wellness, as well as patient health.

Knowledge: Empowering health care to make sound choices

H2E's broadest value comes from its efforts to not only accumulate knowledge, but also share that knowledge in a myriad of meaningful ways with the health care community. Moreover, H2E works to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and best practices among everyone in health care—including hospitals and other institutions, manufacturers, distributors and service providers, allied healthcare professional and trade organizations, and public agencies that regulate the health care sector.

H2E's goals are:

- Virtual elimination of mercury.
- Reduction of the quantity and toxicity of health care waste—from manufacturing, purchase and use of products and materials, to improved end-of-life management.
- Minimization of use and exposure to hazardous chemicals, including persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) substances.
- Reducing health care's environmental footprint through resource conservation and other measurable environmental improvements.

- Integrating sustainable design and building techniques with environmentally sound operational practices to create true healing environments.



H2E has become the trusted source of environmental solutions for the health care industry by providing valuable resources and practical, proven tools, including:

- **Online clearinghouse**—The H2E website is an expansive clearinghouse of practical and reliable information designed to help organizations improve their environmental performance. The site offers such tools and resources as: facility self-assessments; model plans for the minimization of regulated, solid, and chemical waste; elimination plans for mercury and other toxic substances; case studies; resource lists; fact sheets; compliance assistance information; and valuable information about state partnerships.
- **H2E Products and Services Directory**—A searchable online database of environmentally preferable products and services, allowing health care professionals to find the best products the market has to offer without spending valuable time researching and seeking testimonials. The directory also allows manufacturers, contractors, service providers, vendors and suppliers to reach their target audience.
- **Listserv**—An online network in which professionals can share ideas, strategize and celebrate success. Available in a daily format as well as weekly or monthly bulletins, the listserv is one of the best resources of the H2E program, providing opportunities for communication and collaboration with scores of other health care professionals who are working toward the same goals.

JOINING IS EASY!

Most of H2E's services cost nothing but an investment of time and a dedication to success. For a modest subscription program fee of less than \$200 per year, organizations also gain exclusive access to one-on-one technical assistance, information-packed teleconferences, participation in the annual awards program and specialized tools such as waste and environmental action planners for health care organizations and H2E business partners.

Join the national movement for environmental sustainability in health care today.
Call 800.727.4179, e-mail us at h2e@h2e-online.org, or visit www.h2e-online.org.